

The Best You Can Be is Good Enough

I frequently swim laps at the YMCA. During the 90 minutes it takes me there are other swimmers in the pool as well. On one side of me there is often a young lady who effortlessly whips off 2 miles, rotating between the crawl, breaststroke, butterfly and backstroke. She passes me like I am treading water. But there are other swimmers who are slower than me. Even though no one else is aware of this (until now) I find myself setting goals of not getting passed by most other swimmers. It is a game I play within my own mind to push myself to improve and swim more efficiently. But, it is a sin if I make more of it than that.

Our human temptation is to compare ourselves to others. For what purpose do we do this? Are we trying to improve our skills or determine our own worth based on how we compare with others? Are we satisfied with how God made us?

It is OK to strive to do well at something and improve skills and to seek role models to help us progress. What is not OK is to envy what others have or can do. It is not OK to base feelings of self-worth on how we compare with others. God gifts each of us differently. It is up to us to use God's blessings to the best of our ability.



In God's eyes it doesn't matter if I am better or less of a swimmer than others. I am who I am. Count your blessings, and do not be envious of the blessings of others.

If He were in the next lane of the pool Jesus would tell me to appreciate what God made me to be. He made you the way you are with a purpose in mind. Celebrate what He enables you to do, because it is a gift from the Lord. Don't envy others but, instead, learn from them.

God has a plan for *your* life. You won't accomplish that plan if you are concerned with how you stack up with others.

Be satisfied with who you are and strive to develop the gifts and talents from God. In all things do what you do for God and He will bless your efforts. Focus on the Lord and He will help you be the person He made you to be.

Scripture: *Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. For we are each responsible for our own conduct (Galatians 6:4-5).*

Prayer: We thank you, Lord, for the unique abilities and opportunities you give each of us. We pray we will use these to glorify you. And, let us seek to follow you as our role model. Amen.